

Questions and answers to
Change in VFC program beginning January 1, 2009

Updated January 1, 2009

Visit this website periodically: <http://www.azdhs.gov/phs/immun/resource.htm>.

Q1: How does this affect school based vaccination clinics conducted by a public vaccine providers like Mesa Fire Dept.?

A1: The 2 charts below attempt to provide a quick guide on the “required” vaccines which will continue to be supplied by the Arizona VFC program and the “recommended” vaccines which have some limited availability to providers.


The Mesa Fire Dept clinic is an outreach effort into a school with the intent to vaccinate all the children needing vaccinations and insurance status is neither asked nor available.

1. You may continue vaccinating the school age children for all the vaccines required to stay in school, regardless if insured or uninsured.
 2. You cannot vaccinate children in need of the “recommended” vaccines for school age children (i.e.: HPV, and Hepatitis A).
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Arizona Immunization Program Office (AIPO) Guidance to Providers

Appropriate use of Arizona VFC vaccine

Vaccines <u>required</u> for child care or school attendance							
Vaccines	Eligibility categories of children ≤ 18 years of age						
	KidsCare	Medicaid eligible	Native American	Uninsured	Underinsured at a FQHC/RHC	Underinsured at a non FQHC	Privately Insured at Public Health Clinic
All DTaP containing vaccines							
All Polio containing vaccines							
All MMR containing vaccines							
All Hib containing vaccines							
All Hepatitis B containing vaccines							
Tdap or Td vaccines							
Meningococcal vaccines							
All Hepatitis A Containing vaccines (only for child care)*						*See Notes below	*See Notes below
All Varicella containing vaccines*						*See Notes below	*See Notes below

 Yes, continue to administer this vaccine and to the indicated eligibility category. Vaccine will be supplied by AIPO/VFC program.

- * **Hepatitis A vaccine** is only required of children attending child care facilities in Maricopa County; therefore, hepatitis A VFC vaccine can only be used by Maricopa County providers to fulfill child care requirements.
- * **Varicella vaccine** – dose #1 is required for child care and school attendance in K through 4th grade and 7th through 10th grades. Varicella is not required in the 2008-2009 school year for, 5th, 6th, 11th, and 12th grades. Dose #2 is not required, except if the child received dose #1 after 12 years of age, then dose #2 is required.

Vaccines <u>recommended (but not required)</u> for child care or school attendance							
Vaccines	Children's Eligibility categories						
	KidsCare	Medicaid eligible	Native American	Uninsured	Underinsured at a FQHC/RHC	Underinsured at a non FQHC	Privately Insured at a Public Health Clinic
Influenza vaccines							
Hepatitis A vaccine (all counties except Maricopa county)							
Pneumococcal Conjugate vaccine (PCV7)							
Pneumococcal Polysaccharide vaccine (PPV 23)							
Rotavirus vaccines							
Human Papilloma Vaccines (HPV)							



Yes, continue to administer this vaccine and to the indicated eligibility category. Vaccine will be supplied by AIPO/VFC program.



Yes, influenza vaccine will continue to be supplied during the 2008-2009 influenza vaccination season. This vaccine was purchased in May 2008.



No longer can provide these vaccines through the Arizona VFC program.



No longer can provide these vaccines for underinsured through the Arizona VFC program unless given at a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) or Rural Health Center (RHC)

* **Hepatitis A vaccine** is only required of children attending child care facilities in Maricopa County; therefore, hepatitis A VFC vaccine can only be used by Maricopa County providers to fulfill child care requirements

* **Varicella vaccine** – dose #1 is required for child care and school attendance in K through 4th grade and 7th through 10th grades. Varicella is not required in the 2008-2009 school year for, 5th, 6th, 11th, and 12th grades. Dose #2 is not required, except if the child received dose #1 after 12 years of age, then dose #2 is required.

Q2: How does this affect Public Law 95-210 Rural Health Clinics? We operate three rural health clinics.

A2: A federally designated Rural Health Clinics (RHC) can follow the guidance of a Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) as indicated in the letter. Those VFC providers in Arizona qualifying under Public Law 95-210 as a RHC are listed below:

COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE OF DOUGLAS INC	2174 WEST OAK AVENUE	DOUGLAS, AZ 85607
COPPER QUEEN MEDICAL ASSOCIATES-BISBEE	101 COLE AVENUE	BISBEE, AZ 85603
COPPER QUEEN MEDICAL ASSOCIATES- DOUGLAS	100 EAST 5TH STREET	DOUGLAS, AZ 85607
PALOMINAS / HEREFORD RURAL HEALTH CLINIC	10524 EAST HIGHWAY 92	PALOMINAS, AZ 85615
SAGE OUTPATIENT CLINIC	PO BOX 457, HIGHWAY 264	GANADO, AZ 86505
SAN LUIS WALK-IN CLINIC-D (URGENT CARE CENTER)	1896 EAST BABBIT LANE, SUITE D	SAN LUIS, AZ 85349
SULPHUR SPRINGS MEDICAL CENTER	900 WEST SCOTT	WILLCOX, AZ 85643
TRI-VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER	39726 HARQUAHALA ROAD, BOX 85	SALOME, AZ 85348

Q3: Does this mean, since I am a non FQHC private provider, I have to send the underinsured children to the Pima County Health Dept for them to receive the recommended vaccines starting 1/1/09?

A3: There are a couple of options for the underinsured parent/child. The child and parent may continue to receive vaccinations in your clinic and the parent/child would be billed for any part of the immunization visit not covered by their insurance. If this becomes cost prohibitive for the underinsured child/parent, low cost or no cost vaccinations are available at all county health department clinics.

Q4: Can private providers continue to order HPV vaccine after January 1, 2009?

A4: Yes, a provider can continue to order HPV vaccine and other vaccines in December and beyond. But these vaccines must only be administered to children who are KidsCare eligible or eligible for federal VFC vaccine (i.e.: Medicaid eligible, uninsured, Native American/Alaskan Native, or underinsured at an FQHC).

Q5: In December, can a private provider continue to order HPV vaccine?

A5: Yes, a provider can continue to order HPV vaccine and other vaccines in December and beyond. But these vaccines must only be administered to children who are KidsCare eligible or eligible for federal VFC vaccine (i.e.: Medicaid eligible, uninsured, Native American/Alaskan Native, or underinsured at an FQHC).

Q6: Will the private providers be allowed to give the recommended vaccines after the first of the year because they have it in inventory?

A6: Yes, but only to children who are KidsCare eligible or eligible for federal VFC vaccine (i.e.: Medicaid eligible, uninsured, Native American/Alaskan Native, or underinsured at an FQHC).

Q7: How does this affect hospitals giving hepatitis B vaccines to newborns?

A7: This will not affect hospitals. All hospitals enrolled in the Arizona VFC program will continue to receive all the hepatitis B vaccine needed to vaccinate all newborns regardless of insurance coverage.

Q8: Can IHS or any other public or private provider vaccinate an insured child?

A8: Yes, Native Americans and Alaskan Natives qualify for the federal Vaccines for Children's Program funds, even if they have other insurance, and are therefore not affected by a reduction in our state vaccine funds.

Q9: I vaccinated an underinsured female with HPV vaccine in December. Can I vaccinate the female after January 1, 2009?

A9: No, except for certain publicly funded clinics. A Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC), a deputized FQHC (such as a county health department), or a Rural Health Center (RHC) may continue to vaccinate underinsured children with all required and recommended vaccines.

Q10: What are the options for a parent/child who is underinsured?

A10: We recommended the underinsured child remain in the medical home for all medical services. The provider in the medical home will decide what services the child should receive in the medical home or refer them to another provider who can provide low cost or no cost immunizations. A FQHC, RHC, or a county health department deputized as a FQHC are authorized to vaccinate underinsured children for all the required and recommended vaccines. As of December 31, 2008; 15 of 15 (all) county health departments are FQHCs, so they can vaccinate underinsured children for both required and recommended vaccines.

Q11: A juvenile detention center cannot take adolescents anywhere to be vaccinated. Can a juvenile detention center continue to provide vaccine to the center's adolescent detainees? What vaccines can be provided to the incarcerated adolescents?

A11: The juvenile detention center can continue to vaccinate adolescents but with some exceptions. If the adolescent has private health insurance, that adolescent will not be able to receive VFC vaccines for the following recommended vaccines: HPV, Hepatitis A, or PPV23.

Q12: How do I become an FQHC (federally qualified health center)?

A12: The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) website contains the requirements and instructions on how to apply at: <http://bphc.hrsa.gov/about/requirements.htm>.

A website which you can search if you are in a Medically Underserved Area/Medically Underserved Population designation is found at: <http://muafind.hrsa.gov/index.aspx>.

A website which provides Questions and Answers: http://www.raconline.org/info_guides/clinics/fqhcfaq.php

Q13: As a public provider, can I continue to vaccinate insured children that come to our clinic?

A13: Yes and No. Yes, you may continue to vaccinate insured children for the “required” vaccines necessary to enter child care or school. You will not be able to use VFC vaccine to vaccinate the insured child for the “recommended” vaccines that are not required to enter child care or school. Refer the insured child to their medical home to receive the recommended vaccines.

Q14: What is the definition of underinsured child?

A14: The 2008 Arizona Vaccines for Children Operations Guide provides a definition of underinsured on page 9. It states that an underinsured child is:

- A child who has commercial (private) health insurance but the coverage does not include vaccines,
 - A child who insurance covers only selected vaccines (the child would be VFC-eligible for non-covered vaccines only),
 - A child who insurance caps vaccine coverage at a certain amount. Once that coverage amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured and is eligible to receive VFC vaccines.
 - A child who insurance has a deductible. Until the deductible amount is reached, the child is categorized as underinsured and is eligible to receive VFC vaccines.
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Q15: Do we continue to ask for eligibility status?

A15: Yes, at each visit, the eligibility of the child should be asked and documented in the medical records. The eligibility categories on state produced forms are:

0 = KidsCare

1 = AHCCCS

2 = Uninsured

3 = Native American or Alaska Native

4 = Underinsured

5 = Other or Insured

The eligibility status may change from visit to visit except if the child is Native American or Alaska Native.

Q16: Who are the FQHC's in Arizona?

A16: The list of the members of the Arizona Association of Community Health Centers (AACHC) can be found at <http://www.aachc.org/membersl.php>. The members of AACHC are FQHCs. Also, all county health departments are deputized as FQHCs as of Dec 31, 2008.
